been drawn to the news item captioned "Power Grid in multi-crore scam" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated November 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any enquiry has been initiated in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The news item broadly makes allegations about irregularities in the purchase of Emergency Restoration System (ERS) by POWERGRID and the utility of the equipment in Indian conditions. ERS was recently used on two occasions-once in the 220 KV Bairasiul-Pong Line where a tower had been endangered by land slide and for the second time in Tanakpur-Bareilly Line where an existing tower was likely to be damaged due to change in the river course. Preliminary enquiries into the matter reveal that the procurement of the various packages was done in accordance with established procedures laid down by the World Bank for bidding, evaluation of bids and award of such contracts.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

2853. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of various categories reserved for SCs and STs lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry for a considerable time;

(b) if so, the break-up thereof till date post-wise;

(c) whether the employees of various categories working in departments and undertakings under his Ministry have also been promoted in addition to the new recruitments made on some posts during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the recruitments and promotions made on various posts in various categories during the said period, separately;

(e) whether the recruitment of SCs/STs has been made in accordance with the reservation rules and the SC/ST employees working therein have been promoted in accordance with the reservation rules;

(f) the action being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

[English]

I.A.E.A.

2854. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether India's nuclear power programme is in a mess;

(b) whether all nine power reactors and among the 50 least reliable of the 399 reactors monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make nuclear programme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir. The nuclear power stations in the country have performed well. During last year and this year so far, they have achieved an average capacity factor of 60%.

(b) No, Sir. IAEA does not monitor the operation of nuclear power reactors.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Apart from the ongoing successful efforts to improve the capacity and availability fators of the operating stations and completion of the ongoing projects for the construction of four nuclear reactors, it is proposed to take up new projects to increase the contribution of nuclear energy for electricity production in the country.

Safeguard Arrangement

2855. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1993, India and International Atomic Energy Agency agreed to extention bilateral basis, the safeguard arrangement till December, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the above agreement was not extended further;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present arrangement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). No. Sir. the tripartite safeguards agreement between International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America relating to safeguards provisions on Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) expired on October 24, 1993. However, an adhoc arrangement valid till Ist March, 1994 providing for safeguards had been entered into between the Government of India and the IAEA.

As a confidence building measure, the Government made a voluntary offer for application of safeguards on the nuclear material in TAPS. Accordingly, a bilateral safeguards agreement with the IAEA came into effect on 1.3.1994. As per this agreement, the IAEA would continue its safeguards inspections in TAPS to ensure that the nuclear material subject to the safeguards agreement are used exclusively for peaceful purpose.

Pension to Retired Persons

2856. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a large number of representations regarding non-sanctioning of pension to the retired employees of Directorate of Industries, U.P. and U.P. Export Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken so far and being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). The requisite information has since been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The details are as follows. A number of thirty three cases of retired employees of the Department of Industries of Uttar Pradesh were pending settlement. The details of these cases are as under :

(i) Ten cases related to officials who retired in the past two months.

(ii) Seven cases due to pending court cases and

(iii) Remaining Sixteen cases were pending because of over payment, pending departmental proceedings, verification of services and non-receipt of completed pension papers. The concerned officers have been instructed to expedite the disposal of pending cases.

Under the provisions of Constitution of India, State pensions are the concern of the respective State Governments. Therefore, the information as asked for about State Government employees does not remain available with the Central Government.

Oil Reserves

2857. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) progress made in identification of oil reserves on land and off shore during the last three years;

(b) whether any oil field allotted to the private sector is under production;

(c) if so, the name of the allottees of private sector is under production;

(d) whether work is going on in any other allotted fields; and

(e) if so, the particulars thereof with the name of the allottee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) During the last 3 years, ONGC and OIL have established 165.94 MMt in place oil reserves in the onland parts and about 224 MMt in the offshore parts.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The following medium/small sized oil fields awarded under various production sharing contracts are already on production :

Small size		*Allottees of Pvt. Sector*
1. Bhandut	-	GSPC, Ahmedabad, Niko Resources, Canada.
2. Hazira	-	-do-
3. Asjol	-	GSPC Ahmedabad, HOEC Baroda and Petrodyne Inc. USA.
4. Dholka	-	L and T Bombay, JTI, USA.
5. Lohar	-	Selan Exploration Co. Ltd. New Delhi.
6. Indrora	-	Selan Exploration Co. Ltd. New Delhi.
7. Bakrol	-	Selan Exploration Co. Ltd. New Delhi.
Medium size		
1. Panna	-	RIL Bombay, Enron USA.
2. Mukta	-	RIL Bombay, Enron USA.
3. Ravva	-	Comman Petroleum Australia, Videocon India, Marubeni Japan.
4. Kharsang	-	Enpro India Ltd. Geoenpro Petroleum Ltd. Exopetrol International Inc.

(d) Yes Sir.